



North Carolina HEAD START Newsletter



A joint publication of the NC Head Start Association and the NC Head Start — State Collaboration Office.

Issue No. 3 July 2009

Greetings from the NCHSA President



Patricia Colón, MSA
NCHSA President

As we prepare for the 2009-10 Head Start year and new groups of young, eager children, I am confident that those transitioning to kindergarten from our high quality North Carolina Head Start programs are ready to succeed!

Even as we close one school year, we are busy making plans for the next one and for those of us who have Early Head Start, the fun never ends. We are enjoying the wonders of infant and toddler early care and education throughout the summer!

We have a lot of important work ahead of us. Quality Improvement and COLA monies

are available. The Head Start and Early Head Start expansion notices are posted and we have the opportunity to expand and enhance services to children and families. I encourage all Head Start and Early Head Start programs to review your Community Assessment and critically analyze the available resources in your service areas. If you have the organizational capacity and community need for additional services, I hope you applied for expansion! Every child in North Carolina, who is age and income eligible, should have the benefit of the high quality early education and family development services that only Early Head Start and Head Start can provide. As current grantees, you can make it happen!

The NCHSA stands ready to provide you with support and assistance as you embark on the journey toward expansion. Please contact me or our Executive Director, Michele Bare, for additional information.

Thank you to all who participated in the recent NCHSA web-surveys. The information compiled helps the NCHSA provide targeted support to programs as well as pertinent information to our state partners and the Region IV Office of Head Start.

Yours in Service,

Patricia A. Colón
Patricia Colón, MSA
NCHSA President

Greetings from the NC HSSCO Director

The last several months have been a whirlwind in North Carolina for Head Start and Early Head Start grantees and for the early care and education system in general! There has been, and continues to be, lots of legislative activity in the State that will have a profound impact on the way that we deliver services to children birth to 5 and their families. However, it is important to remember that difficult times are often the map that leads to the pathway of *discovery*. In these turbulent times, Head Start has the opportunity to lead the effort to discover new and improved ways to do business!

Head Start and Early Head Start programs must uphold their legacy of building collaborations with community partners that broaden the scope, increase the depth, and expand the reach of their services. This includes creating new alliances and strengthening existing ones with *More At Four*, LEAs, private child care providers, and local Partnerships; and with community service entities like AmeriCorps, museums, libraries, and local law enforcement. This also includes building strong infrastructure supports like professional development opportunities for staff and effective resources for families that are responsive to their needs.

These measures are absolutely critical as we look ahead to Head Start and Early Head Start expansion opportunities made possible through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. It is projected that nearly 500 additional children will be served next year, as a result of Head Start expansion. Even more promising is the projection that North Carolina will double the number of children birth to age 3 and expectant mothers served by Early Head Start through this expansion opportunity! These additional children and expectant mothers will likely be served by existing grantees and newly-funded grantees in over half the counties in the State.

In the coming months a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (legislated in the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*) may, at last, be established in North Carolina. This new initiative can be a fresh approach to support the larger effort to strengthen statewide collaboration and coordination among the wide range of early childhood programs and services (including Head Start and Early Head Start) in the State.

As we press forward to confront challenges and expand opportunities, let us cling fast to our ultimate goal to “break the cycle of poverty.”

In the spirit of collaboration,

Khari M. Garvin
Khari M. Garvin, M.Ed
Director, NC HSSCO

*Mary Campbell, Cluster E
Chairperson, presents former 1st Vice
President Ed Bristol with an
appreciation plaque for his work with
NCHSA at the May Cluster E Meeting.*



Current Head Start Collaboration Office Initiatives

E-Rate eligibility for NC Head Start programs

Effective May 28, 2009, **all Head Start grantees in North Carolina** were made eligible to receive discounts on certain program costs associated with telecommunications and Internet access!

The *Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund* (commonly known as "E-Rate") is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and provides discounts for telecommunications services (*e.g.* local and long-distance calling, high-speed lines), Internet access, internal connections (the equipment to deliver these services), and maintenance of internal connections.

The discount benefit is applicable only to the center-based portion of a Head Start grantee's telecommunications and Internet access costs (*i.e.* programs serving children age 3 to 5). **The soonest that NC Head Start grantees will be able to begin receiving discounts is July 2010.**

The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office will be releasing time-sensitive details this month about important next steps that Head Start programs must take to be properly positioned to participate in the E-rate program in July 2010.

Poverty simulation experience

The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office has partnered with the NC Community Action Association to deliver a series of Poverty Simulation trainings to the staff of Head Start/Early Head Start programs, Community Action Agencies, and any other programs dedicated to serving low-income children and families. The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants develop a personal understanding of what it is typically like to live in poverty from month-to-month. The Poverty Simulation Experience will be offered on a regional basis across the State beginning fall 2009. It will be available at no cost as a pre-service or in-service training, as well as at designated State conferences. For information or to schedule a participation opportunity for your staff, contact the Head Start Collaboration Office at 919.431.2005.

Welcome new NC Head Start/Early Head Start Directors

See page two of this newsletter for brief introductions to some of our newest NC Head Start and Early Head Start Directors. New Directors are also listed online at NCHEADSTART.ORG.

Reach out today and support our newest leaders across the state! All Directors are invited to participate in NCHSA's Directors' Caucus!

BROC teachers graduate B-K program

Brenda Roten, Director of Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission (BROC) Head Start announces four of her teachers graduated this spring from the B-K program at Appalachian State University. Says Roten of their accomplishment, "We are so proud of them – they have worked hard!"

Graduates included Kathy Kelley, Teacher at North Wilkesboro Head Start Center in Wilkes County; Maria Reid, Teacher at Cub Creek Head Start Center in Wilkes County; Lori Burke, Teacher at Cub Creek Head Start Center in Wilkes County; and Linda Widner, Teacher at Sizemore Head Start Center in Ashe County.



www.ncheadstart.org

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www.osr.nc.gov/HeadStart

Current Head Start Collaboration Office Initiatives (continued)

Early Educator Certification...it's not too late to apply!

Early Educator Certification is the new system that recognizes and validates the professional development levels of early childhood professionals. Early childhood teaching staff in all settings (Head Start, More at Four, private providers, etc) can have their transcripts reviewed to verify their level of education. Then they will be assigned a certification level by the *NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development* based on a standardized scale ranging from Level 1 to Level 10. Certified teaching staff will receive an official certificate and a wallet-sized Certification card. As with all professions, certified individuals will have to continue their education to maintain their certification.

The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office has sponsored Early Educator Certifications for a very limited number of teaching staff from the following HS & EHS grantees:

Alexander County HS	Cleveland Co. HS	Mountain. Area HS
Asheville City Schools HS	Family & Infant Pre-school	Onslow Co. HS
Bethlehem Center HS	Family Services HS/EHS	Person Co. HS
Blue Ridge CA HS	Greene Lamp HS	Polk Co. HS
Cabarrus Co. HS	Kannapolis City HS	McDowell Co. HS
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Pre-K/HIS	Lumbec Regional HS	Rutherford Co. HS

For more information about how to participate in the Early Educator Certification initiative, contact the Certification Department at info@nceec.org or 919.942.7442.

Diversity in Leadership Institute

The *Diversity in Leadership Institute* will kick-off fall 2009! The NC Head Start-State Collaboration Office is proud to be a contributing partner to this initiative. The Institute is a collaborative effort of the Early Childhood Leadership and Policy Network and the Diversity in Leadership Alliance that presents a unique professional development experience and opportunity for NC HS & EHS programs to partner with other providers of early childhood services in their communities. The purpose of the *Diversity in Leadership Institute* is to:

- Promote greater diversity in leadership, including strengthening diverse leaders who can embrace their potential as leaders and step into more public, decision-making roles
- Inform current leaders about issues of diversity, including providing information and resources to understand and incorporate diversity in our work (e.g. learning culturally responsive teaching strategies with children or learning more about strengthening and promoting diverse leaders)
- Equip participants to understand how diversity is impacting early childhood programs and to advocate for changes needed to better reflect and support diversity in programs
- Create local and state teams to implement diversity in leadership action plans within their communities across North Carolina.

Applications for participation were disseminated in June. Up to 10 representatives from the HS & EHS communities will be selected to participate in this year-long professional development initiative.

Welcome NEW Directors!

Bill Frenzel, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Pre-K/Head Start

After serving five years in the position of Preschool Disabilities Coordinator for Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, Mr. Bill Frenzel was officially named Head Start Director on February 1, 2009. Bill looks forward to implementing Positive Behavior Supports over the 16 classes at nine sites, as well as providing mental health interventions for the few children who are in great need of those services. After hours, Bill enjoys working in the yard and garden and completing home improvement projects around the house. Congratulations and welcome, Bill!



Valerie Wright, Four County Community Services Head Start

On July 1, 2009, Valerie Wright officially became Four County Community Services' new Head Start Director. Valerie brings to the position nine years of experience as Area Director for Baptist Children's Homes of NC. This is a review year, and Four County Community Services, Inc. is a Program of Excellence, therefore Valerie is working diligently to maintain that status. "I would like to enhance the lives of children and families through the delivery of Quality Services Through Quality Relationships (QSTQR)," adds Valerie. When she is not ensuring the best for the children and families served by Four County, she loves spending time with family and friends, traveling to the beach and the mountains and playing Bingo.

NC Institute For Early Childhood Professional Development updates

North Carolina is professionalizing the Early Educator workforce by certifying the education of those who work directly with, intend to work with, and/or work on the behalf of children ages birth to twelve. Early Educator Certification (EEC) is now available to all Early Educators through the North Carolina Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development (www.ncchildcare.org).

The list of EEC Rewards is growing! Discounts on purchases through Discount School Supply, Kaplan, Barnes & Nobles and more are available to certified Early Educators. The cost for initial certification is \$50 unless you are eligible to receive certification through a grant program:

Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) Grant
Nearly 5,000 Early Educators in NC are certified, including 808 self-reported Head Start employees. Fifty-four of the Head Start employees were certified through funds provided by the HSSCO. An estimated 100 slots are still available for selected Head Start teachers and assistants for free certification through HSSCO. Selected grantees will be notified in the coming months if there are slots available for their Head Start staff.

NC Division of Child Development Grant

The NC Division of Child Development has also provided funding to certify up to 1,500 T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Health Insurance and Child Care WAGE\$® recipients at no charge. This grant opportunity is expected to continue past June 30. To determine if you are eligible for free certification contact the EEC office at 919-942-7442 or email us at info@nceec.org.

Do you have it yet? Learn more about Early Educator Certification! Go to www.ncchildcare.org.

NC Directors visit Virginia

Kathy Payne, Head Start Director for YVEDDI Head Start and Janet Purser, Head Start Director for Cabarrus County BOE Head Start, participated in an exchange of information by presenting at the June Virginia Head Start Association Director's Council Meeting at Virginia Beach. The presentation and discussion centered around collaboration and partnerships. Similar to North Carolina, Virginia has a state funded preschool program and they are currently seriously exploring options for blending state pre-k with Head Start.

"This was a great opportunity to network with Head Start professionals from another region, to gain insight into needs and strategies they are experiencing and to feel like we may have contributed to solutions for everyone involved," says Janet of the experience.

The discussion validated for everyone that common issues arise for all Head Start programs that work to partner with other programs and agencies. The group also concluded that the benefits to children and families make working through the issues well worth the effort.

"I am certain that collaboration becomes more attainable when it is first modeled from the state down, as with our NC Office of School Readiness and NC Head Start - State Collaboration Office," notes Kathy, "In reflecting on this experience and learning about the challenges our colleagues in Virginia are faced with, I realized that we should remember how fortunate we are here in NC. North Carolina Head Start programs have been handpicked as the premier Early Childhood model by the UK Sure Start Program and now the Virginia Head Start Association (VHSA). I believe this says a lot about the quality of NC Head Start programs and the level of collaborative partnerships between our Head Start programs and other NC early childhood agencies at the state and local levels."

Kathy and Janet were recommended by Khari Garvin, NC Head Start – State Collaboration Office Director, to attend the VA Head Start Director's Council Meeting after his office was contacted by the VHSA.

New DCD Director named

Maria Spaulding, Deputy Secretary announces that effective June 2, 2009 Deborah "Deb" J. Cassidy was named director of the Division of Child Development.

"We are indeed fortunate to have Deb on board. You will find her to be an engaging leader with a clear vision for the future of child development in North Carolina," says Maria.

She comes to DCD from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with more than nineteen years of experience as a professor of Human Development and Family Studies, coordinator of the Birth-Kindergarten Licensure Program and Child Development Education Program, which is an on campus child care program serving more than 82 children. Additionally Deb served as the Project Director for Rated License Assessment Project for approximately 10 years at the University.

She earned a Ph.D. in child development and early childhood from the University of Illinois in 1986 and a Master's degree from the University of Illinois in 1980 focusing on young children's memory and object location.

She has authored or co-authored dozens of reports and articles dealing with early childhood issues.

Community Action Opportunities recognized at CCSA banquet

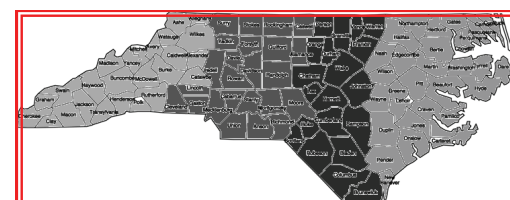
Community Action Opportunities' Laurel Elementary Head Start site was chosen from a pool of 35 finalists and 281 applicants as one of nine North Carolina Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development 2009 Early Childhood Professional Development Program Award winners. The center received a \$500 award and plaque during the Child Care Services Annual Award dinner held on June 19 at the Sheraton Imperial, Durham.

Applicants were required to submit information about their program, commitment to professional development and supports provided to staff along with parent and teacher references.

A total of \$10,700 was awarded this year, supported by a grant from the NC Division of Child Development and resources and staff provided by Child Care Services Association.

"We are delighted to receive this award for the third year, and to be recognized for our commitment to the professional development of all of our Head Start staff," says Peggy McLeod, Early Childhood Education Program Manager. All 21 centers operated by Community Action Opportunities Head Start maintain 5-Star license ratings and meet More at Four standards.

Congratulations to Laurel Elementary Head Start Center Supervisor, Monica McLeod, Community Action Opportunities Head Start Director, Jerrie Honeycutt, and their staff!



CLUSTER NEWS

Cluster events for 2009-2010

All Clusters are busily planning for the upcoming program year. **Cluster A** is planning a late-October event to be held at W.A.G.E.S. Head Start/Early Head Start. They also plan to hold events in December and April. They will be holding a planning meeting this month. Sampson County Head Start will be hosting **Cluster B's** October 30 event. They are also planning to hold events on January 22, 2010 and in April or at the Conference in March. Cluster B will hold a planning meeting on August 28. **Cluster C** held a planning meeting on June 1, at which time they decided on training topics for November and February events. Cluster C will also meet in late spring 2010. **Cluster E** is holding a planning meeting this month for 2009-2010 events. Cluster E met in May to determine training topics for the upcoming year.

Cluster officers representing all four Clusters met via conference call on May 20 to share ideas that will support Cluster activity across the state. All Clusters will plan their events to include training for Head Start/Early Head Start staff, Directors networking and a Cluster business meeting. For more information on events in your Cluster, visit the Cluster web pages at www.ncheadstart.org.

Early Childhood Training Opportunities

2009 NCaeyc Workstudy Conference

The 2009 NCaeyc Workstudy Conference will be held in Raleigh, October 1-3. Becky A. Bailey, Ph.D., an award winning author, renowned teacher and internationally recognized expert in childhood education and developmental psychology will be the opening keynote speaker. For conference details and registration information, visit www.ncaeyc.org.

RIVHSA announces 1st Annual Parent Conference

The RIVHSA will be hosting its first Annual Parent Conference in Jacksonville, Florida at Daytona Hilton Ocean Front, October 9-11. The theme for the conference is "Believe It and Achieve It." The RIVHSA October board meeting will be held in conjunction with this conference. For more information, visit www.rivhsa.org.

NBCDI 39th Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the National Black Child Development Institute's 39th Annual Conference, "Cultivating Genius... Imagine the Possibilities." It will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA, October 24-27, 2009. For more information, visit www.nbcdi.org.